

# **Unit 142 Board Meeting Minutes**

## **January 17, 2026**

**Present:** Ron Frank, Bill Holt, Michael Pascsl, David Loeb, Maureen Loeb, June Threlkeld, Robyn Fennell, Richard Wilt, Chris Rasmussen , and Dan Lattanzi

### **Board Member Updates and President's Remarks**

President Ron Franck welcomed the three new board members: Richard Wilt, Chris Rasmussen (noted for work in education), and Dan Lattanzi (joining online from Florida).

- Next Ron reflected on the success of the past year—strong focus on education, club manager support, and well-run tournaments.
- Encouragement to spread responsibilities among board members for upcoming events like Pro-Am and sectionals; open invitation for additional board member recommendations.

### **Secretary's Report presented by Maureen Loeb**

- Previous meeting minutes reviewed and approved.
- Membership has generally declined, but Unit 142 now has the largest share in the district following mergers, yet minimal representation on the executive committee.
- Craig Biddle selected for the district advisory committee, a role suited to his experience.

### **Treasurer's Report presented by Michael Pascal**

- Treasurer reported assets slightly decreased due to end-of-year expenses but overall remain strong (\$292K at end of December).
- Club support stipends adjusted from \$20 to \$12 per table, with added incentives for newcomer-focused games; discussion on targeted incentives for growing new player participation.

### **Education and Outreach Initiatives presented by Bill Holt**

- Successful student Christmas party held, with plans for more student-focused games and events.
- Multiple classes and supervised play ongoing at various locations (Mount Lebanon, Beechview, Monroeville, Sewickley, Plum); new beginner teaching approaches being tested to improve engagement.

- Renewed efforts to revive "Bridge in Schools" programs—initial outreach ongoing to local school districts and universities (e.g., CMU), with support for game sanctioning and special student events like U26 competitions and Bitcoin prizes.
- Marketing targeting college and young adult participation, including possible involvement at university duplicate games and tailored outreach.

## **Communications, Marketing, and Website. Presented by David Loeb**

- Newsletter and website updates: In Memoriam section shifted online, with easier access for member input; encouragement for board and members to contribute articles and photos.
- Discussion on using Facebook community pages and social media (with some AI-generated images) for class and event promotion.
- Ongoing improvements for mobile usability of club directories and results.
- Idea floated to create a comprehensive bridge resource handout for new and prospective players, including online play options and event listings.

## **Club Liaison and Membership Matters presented by Jim Gump**

- Efforts to update board member contact sheets and club/game spreadsheets.
- Feedback on holiday party funding—clarified policy for one check per club manager, regardless of number of games, with suggestion to revisit for next year.
- No additional discounts or promotions planned for newly merged units (e.g., Johnstown); emphasis on maintaining good communication and welcoming atmosphere.

## **Tournament Planning: Sectionals and Regional presented by Bill Holt, the Loeb, and June Threlkeld**

- Spring sectional set for May (Mother's Day weekend, not Sunday) at a new, cost-effective Elks Lodge venue in Cranberry Township; logistics in progress for food, hospitality, and possible food trucks. Chairs are David and Maureen Loeb
- Summer sectional planned for July 24-27, also at the Cranberry venue, with discussions about event formats and days (Thursday-Saturday currently favored due to poor Sunday attendance). Jim Gump is the chairman.
- Pro-Am event proposed to move to the fall (instead of a fall sectional), utilizing a new charity venue and possibly adjusting pro/am masterpoint thresholds; suggestion to contact last year's participants for repeat attendance. (Chair is June THRELKELD)
- Pittsburgh Regional: Unit 142 received unanimous approval to manage the regional, with a formal contract and budget forthcoming; focus on increased marketing, attracting

college/youth participation, and possibly bringing in high-profile guests. Regional scheduled for September 15-20 at the DoubleTree. Plans for breakout events, mid-flight pairs, and measures to dispel rumors about "paid pros" attending. Chairs are David and Maureen Loeb

## **Other Operations and Facilities presented by Ron Franck**

- Need to find a new storage facility for tournament supplies as current U-Haul unit's rent has almost doubled; considering alternate locations or private arrangements.
- Transition and integration of merged units discussed, with focus on ensuring communication and event participation.

## **Meeting Logistics**

- Next board meeting set for Monday, March 16, at Glenshaw, following the club game (Saint Patrick's Day theme suggested). Ron will notify Gus.

## **Action Items**

- Finalize and distribute updated board member and club contact lists. (Jim Gump)
- Continue outreach to schools and colleges for player recruitment and program partnerships. (All)
- Progress on marketing materials: Facebook/social media content, resource handouts, and event flyers. (All)
- Prepare contract and budget projections for regional tournament management.(DBE AND Maureen Loeb)
- Begin search for new, cost-effective storage facility for tournament supplies. (Ron Franck)
- Plan and confirm sectional and Pro-Am event formats, venues, and communications. (June)
- Collect feedback and set policy for next year's club holiday party support.(Jim Gump and Ron Franck)